

National Registration Center for Study Abroad (NRCSA)

P.O. Box 1393, Milwaukee, WI 53201 USA. Tel. 414 278 0631 Fax. 414 271 8884



Learn the Culture  Live the Language  Since 1968

Volunteer in Costa Rica, Peru and Guatemala

ANIMALS & WILDLIFE - ANIMAL CARE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS ABROAD

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala

Program Structure: Volunteer

Animal Care programs are available in Guatemala and Peru. In Latin America, animals are not viewed as family members, nor is there a well-developed culture of animal rights. Overall, there is a lack education and understanding of animals and their unique needs. Side streets are frequently filled with small packs of abandoned dogs and cats who suffer from hunger, abuse, and health issues. The lack of spaying and neutering also means these animals breed quickly. Exotic species are sometimes illegally captured and kept as pets; and farm animals are often neglected due to poverty and a lack of resources. Proper veterinary training and care is not always easy to find.

Grassroots organizations work to save and rehabilitate a wide range of animals. These project sites focus on providing medical care, education, and various other services to protect innocent animals. They help pets get adopted and placed in loving homes; they make sure wild animals are rehabilitated and when possible released back into their natural habitat; and they advocate for the proper care of farm animals and safe pastures where they can live and roam. Placements are available at a number of these specialized facilities, including dog and cat shelters, wildlife rescue centers, sustainable farms, and even a university-run zoo. Some animal care projects are only available on a limited basis, so please mention your preference when applying.

HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Internship

In Latin America, poverty and discrimination create uneven access to resources and degrade basic human rights, but positive change happens through community development focused on social justice and human empowerment. International internship placements are typically with community organizations, NGOs, and government agencies. Interns work with change agents and other social workers who are focused on development, equality and justice, and social responsibility. You help with community outreach, education, research, and fund-raising. As an international intern, you immerse yourself into a community and a project and you learn first-hand about the impacts of culture, social values, and the roles of politics, religion, gender, and ethnicity.

Intermediate Spanish is required to be effective in a human rights internship placement. If your Spanish language skills are not at this level our Spanish Immersion program to bring your skills up to the appropriate level and ensure your success.

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AMAZON CONSERVATION & REFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Cusco, Peru // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Volunteer

Peru's Amazon Jungle is one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth. The Amazon is one of the last primary forests in the world and its ecosystem is totally unique. The species that live in the rainforest are native to the area and would disappear if their natural habitat were ruined. The Amazon Jungle is often referred to as the 'lungs of the planet,' but many people simply take it for granted and it is constantly under threat. This means the Amazon and its amazing natural equilibrium must be protected through research and conservation efforts.

The fate of the Amazon and the countless animals and plant species, along with the people who live there, all depend on getting this right! The task is incredibly challenging, because the necessity for agricultural expansion is the biggest driver of deforestation, which means there are important competing priorities. Reforestation is a key action to help mitigate the effects of climate change, as new trees help reduce the amount of CO₂ in the air and also limit erosion. International participants get involved in planting trees, removing non-native species, monitoring animals, as well as community outreach and education. As a volunteer, you also learn about local tree species and the people of the area. Amazon projects have a clear impact you can directly see, and if you return in just a few years you are able to witness just how much your work literally transforms the area.

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM INTERNSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Internship

With strong, developing economies and amazing natural resources and geography, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Peru are exciting places to be part of the travel industry! Considering Latin America's travel and tourism sector makes a direct contribution of nearly \$150 billion to the region's GDP every year, the importance of these exciting businesses cannot be underestimated. However, hospitality and tourism companies need marketing knowledge and help in reaching out to international customers—especially small companies struggling to compete in a global marketplace.

International placements help you gain practical experience in hospitality, travel, tourism, and food service. Internship placements are with small local companies—boutique hotels, traveler's hostels, restaurants, tourism operators, and travel agencies. As an intern, you work with business owners and local professionals to help improve their companies and expand their capacity to market to and serve international clients. Internships can be customized, but usually focus on specific areas such as Marketing, Sales & Client Service, or Operations. Students' daily responsibilities vary as they learn to wear multiple hats in small, but busy enterprises. Interns get exposure to daily business practices, increase their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary, and improve their ability to communicate with Spanish-speaking guests. You also build your international marketability through new skills, increased confidence, and a more global mindset.

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SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECTS ABROAD

San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Volunteer

Sea turtles have been living and thriving in the world's oceans for more than 150-million years, but today they are in danger of extinction. Each sea turtle species uniquely affects the diversity, habitat, and functionality of its environment, and they play a vital role in maintaining the health of the oceans. Sea turtle projects in Costa Rica and Guatemala are managed by both local and international environmentalists and biologists. The primary focus of these projects is to increase the birth rate and survival of baby sea turtles. The projects also work to collect data and educate the local community about sea turtles and the marine eco-system.

Turtle Conservation projects are located on both the both Caribbean and Pacific coasts. Responsibilities and duties vary greatly from project to project. Program supervisors let you work as independently as possible based on your Spanish language skills, commitment level, and expertise. You are expected to take direction and follow the work plan that the conservation project dictates. As an international volunteer, you get involved with hatchery management, beach patrols, beach cleanup, data collection, and community outreach.

MICRO-BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICA

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Internship

The world has gone global and an understanding of commerce and business practices in other parts of the world is a vital part of contemporary business education. With strong, developing economies, robust tourism sectors, and a natural entrepreneurial spirit, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Peru are exciting places to learn about international business! Considering how fast Latin America's small business sector is growing, the importance of micro-companies and their impact on local economies and employment cannot be underestimated. However, these small companies need marketing knowledge and help in reaching out to international customers—especially entrepreneurs struggling to compete in a global marketplace.

Micro-business placements are usually in small, local companies and interns get a great deal of exposure to business practices in the developing world. Internships are focused on Marketing, Sales & Client Service, or Accounting. In many cases, international interns work with in-country entrepreneurs to help them improve their companies and expand their capacity to market to and serve international clients. As an intern, you may also help build international marketing and distribution channels, train staff, provide translations, and improve overall client communications. During your international internship, you gain real-world business experience, increase your knowledge of business vocabulary in Spanish, and improve your ability to communicate with Spanish-speaking clients and colleagues. You build your professional foundation to become a globally-minded business person.

Intermediate Spanish is required to be effective in a Micro Business placement. If your Spanish language skills are not at this level our Spanish Immersion program to bring your skills up to the appropriate level.

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ECO-AGRICULTURE VOLUNTEER ABROAD IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Volunteer

In Latin America, agriculture employs more than one-third of the population. However, working conditions are less than ideal and the environmental impact can be negative. Various NGOs and farming cooperatives work hard to include organic and sustainable practices in their farming methods, as well as traditional agricultural techniques that have been around for hundreds of years. Experience some of the most interesting service projects in the world and learn to reap what you sow.

International volunteers help with these alternative agriculture programs in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Peru. Eco-agriculture and responsible farming relies on more hands-in-the field than modern industrial farming, and your help is a critical part of achieving sustainability. As an international volunteer, your work may include producing organic coffee from bean to cup, working on macadamia nut and permaculture farms, and helping to grow local tea and cacao in collective farming projects.

CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ABROAD

Cusco, Peru // Antigua, Guatemala // San Jose, Costa Rica

Program Structure: Volunteer

Construction projects in Latin America are the highest impact volunteer programs available—you can literally see and touch the work you do and the impact you make! Central and South America are especially interesting places to learn about both traditional and more modern building methods. Here you can work with adobe, plaster, and bamboo or cement block, drywall, and aluminum. Construction and renovation work benefits developing communities that need help to create infrastructure such as housing, schools, churches, and community centers.

Construction programs are led by our professional local foremen in each country. They lead and teach volunteers how to build, cut, mix, paint, and install... how to truly help a community! Your volunteer work is demanding including excavation, painting, mixing cement, laying brick, plastering, and various other activities. You should come with gloves, work boots, safety glasses, and a desire to work hard, pitch in, and accomplish something big!

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Requirements:

- At least 17 years of age
- Flexible; Willing to do various tasks based on season and project needs
- Be healthy and physically prepared to do manual labor for most of your time.
- Hard working, ready to do anything!
- Spanish language skills are not required

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Program & School Includes:

- All Registration Fees for NRCSA Alumni (NRCSA lifetime registration fee \$40 for non-alumni)
- Volunteer: 3-4 hours/day; Internship: 6-8 hours/day, Monday-Friday
- Orientation for placement and organization
- Official certificate
- Letter of recommendation

- Lodging Includes:

- Homestay or Residence Placement (depending on location / opportunity)
- Meals: Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Shared Room

- Transfers Includes:

- Arrival Transfer from nearest international airport to lodging
- Departure transfers can be arranged locally at an additional cost

- Cultural Activities Includes:

- Orientation covering area, safety
- Walking City Tour after first day of classes
- Afternoon Cultural Activities (1-3 activities/week; includes cooking, dance, etc)
- Local Coordinator to arrange excursions or other outings

- Insurance Emergency & Medical Includes:

- \$25,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation
- \$10,000 Accident/Sickness
- \$ 5,000 Emergency Reunion
- \$ 5,000 General AD&D
- 24 Hour Emergency Hotline - Call collect from anywhere in the world

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